BS in Systems Engineering/ Accelerated MS in Telecommunications

Students in the BS in Systems Engineering Program may elect to enter an accelerated MS in Telecommunications Program while they are undergraduate students. The program is designed for qualified undergraduate students in the systems engineering program who would like to proceed directly into the MS program, completing the two degrees with 144 credits. Students must satisfy requirements for the BS (120 credits) and the MS (30 credits), with 6 credits of overlap permitted. The MS is on an accelerated track, with 6 credits taken as an undergraduate and 24 credits completed as a graduate student. The 6 undergraduate credits must be selected from those given in the listing that follows. Applicants must be Mason undergraduate students who preferably have chosen to take the systems engineering of telecommunications elective sequence. Other students will be considered on their individual merit.

Students may apply for the accelerated program during a semester after which they will have completed 90 or more credits applicable toward the BS in systems engineering as an undergraduate. Students must have an overall GPA of at least 3.25 to apply for the program. Students who have not yet finished 90 credits may be accepted provisionally subject to satisfactory completion of 90 credits. Criteria for admission are identical to criteria for admission into the MS in Telecommunications Program, except that students do not need to have completed an undergraduate degree prior to admission into the accelerated program. Accepted students must maintain a minimum 3.25 GPA in the undergraduate segment of the accelerated program and a 3.00 GPA in the graduate segment. That is, students who have been accepted into the program must maintain a 3.25 average until they have satisfied all requirements for the BS in systems engineering. They must then maintain a minimum 3.00 GPA in the graduate segment. Should their GPA fall below 3.00 while a graduate student, they will be dropped from the accelerated program to the regular program.

Those graduate telecommunications courses taken and applied to the BS program will no longer be admissible for the MS in telecommunications. If students are dropped from the accelerated program and have taken and applied telecommunications core courses toward the BS degree, then they do not need to repeat those courses for the regular MS in Telecommunications Program if they earned a grade B or above in those courses. But they will need to take elective courses in their place to satisfy the 30-credit requirement for the regular MS in telecommunications. Similarly, if students are dropped from the accelerated program and have taken and applied noncore telecommunications courses toward their BS degree, then they do not need to repeat those courses for the regular MS in Telecommunications Program if they earned a grade of C or higher for those courses. Elective courses will be required to replace telecommunications courses already taken and dropped from the program. **Note:** Up to 6 credits of a combination of C or B- grades may be carried in portions of the regular telecommunications program. A minimum GPA of 3.00 is required to graduate with an MS in telecommunications. Students must complete all requirements for the BS in systems engineering. Students in the accelerated program must apply to have the BS degree conferred the semester before they expect to complete the BS requirements. The MS in telecommunications is granted on completion of all requirements for the accelerated degree. Telecommunications courses that may be taken as a systems engineering undergraduate student as part of the accelerated program are TCOM 500, 530; OR 541; and SYST 530 and 573. SYST 573, if taken, replaces TCOM 521 in the telecommunications core requirements.

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